



ETUCE Newsletter

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Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) is a threat to quality education

Last week, Wikileaks released the secret draft text of the TiSA annex on financial services that has highlighted concerns about how the deal will be used to deregulate the financial sector at a time when stricter rules are needed to avoid a repeat of the recent crisis. [Read ETUCE's Press release.](#)



Health and Safety Framework 2014-2020



The new Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work, presented by the European Commission in June, identifies seven strategic objectives for the years 2014-2020. It proposes key actions and instruments for promoting workers' health and safety in Europe. These actions should be implemented or developed in close cooperation with the member states, the social partners and other stakeholders.

Specifically, the seven strategic objectives of the Strategic Framework 2014-2020 are:

- 1) Consolidate national OSH strategies. Among other actions, it is recommended to review the implementation of national OSH strategies in consultation with social partners.
- 2) Facilitate compliances with OSH legislation, particularly at the level of micro and small enterprises.
- 3) Better enforce OSH legislation by the member states. The recommended action foresees to improve labour inspections in particular.

- 4) Simplify existing OSH legislation.
- 5) Address the ageing of the workforce. This means at the level of action to promote the identification and exchange of good practice on ways to improve OSH conditions for specific categories of workers. The European Agency for Occupational Health and Safety (EU OSHA) should identify and disseminate good practice on preventing mental health problems at work.
- 6) Improve statistical data collection on occupational health and safety.
- 7) Better coordinate EU and international efforts to address OSH and engage with international organisations. It is recommended for action to support candidate countries and potential candidate countries in their efforts to align their OSH legislation and to strengthen OSH cooperation with international organisations (ILO, WHO).

The seven objectives intent to meet three major challenges. The first challenge is the need to improve the implementation of risk prevention measures in the member states, especially at the level of small and medium-sized enterprises. Second, occupational diseases should be prevented better by tackling existing risks and taking into account new risks. Third, demographic change and the ageing of the EU's workforce needs to be addressed by the new OSH Framework. If people are expected to work longer in life, occupational health and safety needs to enable a sustainable working life.

Although legislation remains key for OSH management, the framework foresees also other non-legislative tools, such as benchmarking, identifying and exchanging good practices, awareness-raising, setting voluntary norms and user-friendly IT tools.

Synergies shall be explored between contributions of the EU social dialogue at cross-industry or sectoral level and the implementation of EU strategic priorities on OSH but also with other policy areas, such as education, research or equality.

With regard to social dialogue, the work of EU social partners and their national affiliates in relation to OSH will continue to be supported by the European Commission. In particular, the social dialogue committees are invited to consider how to reach micro and small enterprises effectively (enterprises with fewer than 50 employees whose annual turnover does not exceed 10 million Euro).

EU funding, such as the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme, will be available to support the implementation of health and safety rules for the 2014-2020 period.

Regarding communication and information, the European Commission plans to encourage wider stakeholder involvement including social partners. Media, internet, online applications and social networks shall be used to reach young workers, in particular.

Better vocational training options lead to reduce early school leaving

Cedefop celebrate a workshop in VET and early school leaving where interesting conclusions were drawn:

Early findings of a Europe-wide Cedefop study of the effect of vocational education and training (VET) on the dropout rate reveal that this effect is largely positive. In countries where vocational pathways account for a large share of education and training, rates of early school leaving are below the EU target for 2020 (10%). Conversely, in countries where VET lags behind, the dropout rate is higher than 10%; in some cases, significantly so.



Addressing the workshop, Cedefop Director James Calleja pointed out that the problem of early leaving is largely VET's to solve: early leavers between 16 and 24 who return to education typically choose vocational options. Mr Calleja spoke of early leavers as 'casualties of the education system' whom public authorities have a responsibility to support

How to measure the magnitude and determine the causes of early leaving from VET? The ways in which improved data and analysis can feed into targeted policy measures.

Cedefop has launched a three-year project (2014-17) to address the lack of data on early leaving specifically from vocational pathways and to analyze the role VET plays in reducing the dropout rate. This is the link: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/22244.aspx>

More information: http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/2014-06-10_Press-release_Workshop-ELET.pdf

New EURYDICE Report - Key Data on Early Childhood Education and Care in Europe



Indicators Key Data on Early Childhood Education and Care in Europe – 2014 Edition highlights crucial access and quality issues concerning education and care of the youngest children in 32 European countries (37 education systems).

[Read the report](#)